

# The Listening Post

## Kentucky Talking Book Library Newsletter

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Kentucky Talking Book Library

300 Coffee Tree Road Frankfort, KY 40601

1-800-372-2968

Serving Kentucky's Need to Know

Number 42

Winter 2005

### **Coming Soon to Your Talking Book Library!**

#### **Flash Memory**

As many of you may have heard, the National Library Service (NLS) is developing a new technology for your talking books. It's called flash memory, and it promises to deliver improved sound quality, simpler operation, and lighter, more portable players. NLS has already commissioned Battelle Science & Technology to develop the new media and players. The current objective is to have at least 20,000 talking book titles available on the new media by 2008, with new players going out as fast as they can be supplied.

Patrons may receive talking books on flash memory cards as small as a pack of chewing gum. Slip one of these cards into a player and you can listen to an entire book. Just imagine-- no cassettes to change, no side switches to operate, no fragile tape to jam during the final pages of a thriller. The designs for new players aren't final yet.

Of course, it won't all happen overnight. NLS will continue to produce talking books on cassette, and we'll continue to provide them along with our current cassette players. For additional information and updates, please check each issue of *Talking Book Topics*. If you don't receive *Talking Book Topics* and would like to, please call your librarian.

### **Ten-Squared Club**

The 10<sup>2</sup> Talking Book Club was created by NLS to recognize the accomplishments of Talking Book readers 100 years of age and older. We currently have 13 patrons who qualify for this program. Each member will be awarded a letter, pin and certificate of membership. KTBL is in the preliminary stages of planning some events to honor these special patrons. We would love to hear from our centenarians and learn a little about their lives. Watch upcoming newsletters for more information!

### **Chris is Retiring!**

After almost 21 years of serving patrons whose last names begin with G-O, Chris Payne is retiring. Chris came to us from the Casey County Public Library after teaching school for several years. She is a graduate of Morehead State University and attended graduate school at Western Kentucky University.

Chris is married and has three children, five grandchildren and one cat, Lucky, who thinks he's head of the household. She enjoys gardening, attending auctions, reading, genealogy, travel and collects perfume bottles and antique glassware. She is member of the Capital City Woman's Club and volunteers with the fire department's Christmas toy drive and the Miss Franklin County Fair Pageant.

Although Chris is leaving, her patrons can still call for service and one of our staff will be able to help them.

### **State Librarian Celebrates 25 Years of Service**

Since September 1980, James A. Nelson has served as Kentucky State Librarian and Commissioner for the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) which is home to the Talking Book Library. During that time he has led the agency in its responsibility for statewide library development and the management and preservation of public records.

Born and raised in Colorado, Jim has been in Kentucky all of his professional life except for the four years he was on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin before returning to Kentucky in 1980. He and his wife, Becky, together have five children; four boys and a girl. They have one grandchild who is seven years old. Becky, born in North Carolina but raised in Louisville, is a school librarian at Hearn Elementary in Frankfort and teaches children's literature for the UK library school as an adjunct professor.

The Nelson's live north of Georgetown on a beautiful 100 acre lake and are most happy when they can sit on their deck and read while enjoying the waterfowl and the many varieties of birds which come to their feeders. Becky mainly reads children's books because of her work, but likes historical fiction when she gets a chance to read adult books. Jim generally reads mysteries which are written by good writers with a flair for developing a sense of place.

When asked if he had anything in particular to say to our patrons, Jim responded, "Our KTBL customers love to read, too, and we want to do all we can to empower them to enjoy the same pleasures and inspiration reading brings to our lives. In the new year, we hope to engage more Kentuckians in this important service and to better serve our long time customers."

"We commend Jim Nelson for providing 25 years of leadership to the Commonwealth of Kentucky," said Education Cabinet Secretary Virginia G. Fox. "Jim has brought a personal commitment to 'Serving Kentucky's Need to Know' and set a high standard for quality work, strong partnerships and a commitment to professional development."

### **Thank You For Your Donations**

Contributions to our program, whether large or small, make a difference to us. Our Descriptive Video collection, which includes well over 350 movies, and our children's summer reading program are funded entirely by donations. Donations have also helped us purchase Print/Braille books for our younger patrons. Thank you for your generosity.

Elizabeth Kunnecke  
Ruth E. Wood  
Eunice Clark  
Mildred Maxey  
Richard L. Owens  
Gifford Blyton  
Louise & Roy Holt

If you would like to contribute to KTBL, please make your check or money order payable to the Kentucky Talking Book Library, P O Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602-0537. Please do not send cash through the mail. Donations are 100% tax deductible and appreciated by the patrons who use our service.

### **Dates to Remember**

The Talking Book Library will be closed on the following days:

December 23 & 26: Christmas  
Dec. 30-Jan 2: New Year's Day  
January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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### **Braille & Large Print Calendars**

Large print or Braille 2006 wall calendars are available from the American Printing House at a cost of \$7.50 each. You may order one by calling, toll-free, 1-800-223-1839, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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### **Income Tax Info.**

KTBL will provide Braille copies of the 2005 Income Tax forms early next year. Call 1-800-372-2968 after the first of the year if you would like to order a copy.

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## **Important Items to Remember**

**Kentucky Talking Book Library**

**1-800-372-2968**

**1-502-564-8300 ext 276 (local)**

**Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am until 4:30 pm**

**You may leave a voice mail message after hours.**

**We want you to enjoy Talking Books. Your librarian can tailor your service to suit your needs, whatever they are. Please do not hesitate to call us for any of the following:**

- **to make book requests**
- **with any questions or problems**
- **whenever your name, address, or telephone number changes**
- **to temporarily stop service**
- **if you want to change the types of books you get, or the number of books you receive**
- **when you have problems with books or machines**
- **if you want to change the format of your newsletters or catalogs**
- **to cancel your service**

**Include your name, address, and telephone number on all correspondence, request lists, emails, and telephone messages.**

**Please return each book, magazine, or newsletter as soon as you finish it. The maximum loan period is 30 days.**

**Remember to rewind tapes before returning them.**

**Mark an "X" on the mailcard of any defective book.**

**Take care of all cassette books, Braille books, and cassette players; keep them free of food, liquids, dust, and debris.**

**Please keep this list for future reference.**

## Tips for Better Service

We know it is frustrating to have to wait your turn for popular books. That is why we stress the importance of returning each book as soon as possible. While we have several copies of each title, it is not unusual for a book to have 50 or more requests. When you get a new book in the mail, it is sometimes tempting to read it right away and let older books wait, but please be courteous to other patrons and read and return each book promptly.

Sometimes circumstances prevent you from finishing a book within the 30-day loan period. If that happens, give us a call. We may be able to renew the book for you. If not, we may ask you to return the book, and we will send it to you again at a later date. You may receive an overdue notice if you hold books for too long. If so, either return the book immediately, or call your librarian. Your fellow readers will appreciate your cooperation.

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## Some Interesting Facts About Your Talking Book Library

2006 will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Talking Book program.

KTBL serves 4,332 patrons, 67% of which are 55 years or older.

KTBL has 9 full-time and 2 part-time staff members. This staff circulated:

108,917 cassette books,  
7,436 KY books,  
1,159 Braille books,  
944 DVS movies,

13,144 magazines

for a total circulation of 131,570 items. Each patron averages 30.37 items per year.

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## Paws, Claws, Scales & Tales

Paws, Claws, Scales & Tales is the theme of the 2006 Children's Summer Reading Program. We have had little participation in the Summer Reading Program in the past and would like to have more people participate. Even if you are not a child, you can participate with your child or young family member. Your local public library has several activities planned and we encourage you to join in on the fun with them.

Watch for more information in future newsletters and let us know how to make this more enjoyable for more patrons. There are prizes awarded to all children who participate.

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## "Now Recording"

The Audio Studio for the Reading Impaired, Inc. is located in Anchorage, Kentucky and is responsible for recording several Kentucky books and magazines for our library. The Audio Studio is one of the few resources in Kentucky available for custom-recorded books created for vision and reading impaired customers. They record a wide range of topics, from periodicals to textbooks, from novels to non-fiction, and just about any other type of publication you can think of.

The Audio Studio is a non-profit agency offering a unique focus in a one-on-one relationship with individuals who have special needs for

materials not recorded elsewhere. They transfer the recordings to cassettes and mail them to clients. They serve people all over the country. Fees are minimal: \$10.00 recording fee for up to 500 pages if two copies of the reading material are provided or \$20.00 if only one copy is provided.

While the Studio has had a busy winter, their production schedule indicates there's plenty of opportunity to serve more people in the coming months. So if you know of someone with a need for custom recording services, make sure they know the Studio is ready to help.

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### **Creating a Talking Book**

Some of you might be interested to learn about the process we use to create books for our Kentucky Talking Book collection. Most of our collection is supplied by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), a branch of the Library of Congress. They contract with various companies to produce Braille and Talking Books.

But most of the Kentucky collection is recorded right here in our own office studios. We look for books that have a Kentucky connection and that we feel will be of interest to our patrons. A federal law allows us to record the books without the author's permission, as long as use is restricted to those who are physically unable to read print. (This is why patron applications must be certified by competent authority.)

Two copies of a book are needed for recording—one for the narrator,

who reads in one of our two soundproof booths, and the other for a monitor. The monitor sits outside the booth, cues the narrator to begin, operates the recording equipment, and follows the text as the narrator reads. The narrator must follow the text exactly as written. If he makes a mistake, the monitor stops him, rewinds the tape, and cues him to begin again. Most narrators come in once a week and can only read for 30-60 minutes at a time. They usually record 20-25 pages a session; which means it takes approximately 10-12 weeks to record the average book.

Once the entire book has been recorded, a proofreader checks the book for any recording mistakes. Any glaring mistakes must be re-recorded. The book is now ready for duplication, where the original reel-to-reel recording is transferred to multiple cassette tapes for circulation. We make 5-9 copies of each book. A master copy is kept for future duplication in case any tapes are lost or damaged, or additional copies are needed. Finally, cassettes and mailing containers are labeled, the books are entered into our computer system, and then are put on the shelves.

You might be surprised to learn that a great deal of this work is performed by volunteers. All of our narrators and proofreaders are volunteers, as are some of our monitors. This past year 19 volunteers worked a total of 768 hours to produce 52 Talking Books for our patrons. The average Kentucky book circulates twice as much as the average NLS book, and it is not unusual for a Kentucky book to have 50-100 requests.

**Happy Holidays  
and  
Best Wishes for the New Year  
from  
The KTBL Staff**

**You may contact us by e-mail:**

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**Greta Wise, Magazine & Video Clerk    [greta.wise@ky.gov](mailto:greta.wise@ky.gov)**

**Please fill out and return the enclosed KTBL Patron Survey. Thank you.**

**THE  
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POST**

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an Agency of the Education Cabinet.**

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